

Message Text

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ORIGIN OES-06

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R 030749Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 080410

PARIS FOR WILLIAM SALMON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:TECH, ENRG, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH ARRANGEMENTS FOR SALE OF LWR TO IRAQ

DURING RECENT IAEA BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING,
BENGELSDORF HELD CONVERSATIONS WITH DE NAZELLE CONCERNING
THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH FRANCE INTENDS TO
TRANSFER A LWR TO IRAQ. BENGELSDORF OUTLINED FOR DE
NAZELLE IN A GENERAL MANNER, THE PROPOSED TERMS UNDER
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WHICH THE USG IS PLANNING TO EXPORT REACTORS TO EGYPT AND

ISRAEL, INCLUDING THE PROPOSITION THAT ALL REPROCESSING OF THE FUELS IRRADIATED IN OUR REACTORS (REGARDLESS OF THE SOURCE) AS WELL AS THE STORAGE AND FABRICATION OF THE SEPARATED PLUTONIUM SHOULD OCCUR OUTSIDE OF EGYPT OR ISRAEL. BENGELSDORF VENTURED THE OPINION THAT THERE WOULD BE A DESIRABILITY IN ASSURING A PARITY OF TREATMENT BETWEEN FRENCH AND U.S. ARRANGEMENTS WITH SENSITIVE MIDDLE EASTERN COUNTRIES. MOREOVER, AS A PRAGMATIC MATTER HE OBSERVED THAT ONCE THE FRENCH-IRAQ AGREEMENT BECAME BETTER PUBLICIZED HE ANTICIPATED THAT THE USG MIGHT RECEIVE SOME POINTED QUESTIONS FROM THE MEDIA AND THE CONGRESS CONCERNING THE DEGREE TO WHICH THIS ARRANGEMENT WAS COMPARABLE TO THE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS THAT THE USG WAS ENDEAVORING TO APPLY TO EGYPT AND ISRAEL. THE DISCUSSION FOCUSED SPECIFICALLY ON THE QUESTION OF REPROCESSING AND THE HANDLING,

FABRICATION AND STORAGE OF SEPARATED PLUTONIUM AND BENGELSDORF INQUIRED AS TO WHAT SPECIFIC SAFEGUARDS ARRANGEMENTS WERE CONTEMPLATED WHERE SUCH SERVICING WOULD BE PERFORMED, ETC.

WHILE CLEARLY INDICATING THAT IT WAS CONTEMPLATED THAT THE REPROCESSING WOULD OCCUR OUTSIDE OF IRAQ, (WHICH APPEARS COMPATIBLE WITH POSITION GOF WAS CONTEMPLATING FOR EGYPT AS PER PARIS 02551 OF JANUARY, 1976), DE NAZELLE DID NOT GO INTO ANY DETAILS BUT OFFERED TO PROVIDE THE USG WITH INFO TO SHOW HOW PARALLEL OUR TWO APPROACHES MAY BE. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO PURSUE THIS MATTER AND TO INDICATE TO DE NAZELLE THAT WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY SPECIFICS THAT HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE IN THIS REGARD. WE ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN PROBABLE SCHEDULE OF FACILITY AND WHETHER IT IS CONTEMPLATED THAT REGARDLESS OF THE SOURCE OF THE FUEL THAT ALL OF THE REPROCESSING OF THE IRRADIATED MATERIAL AS WELL AS THE STORAGE AND FABRICATION OF THE PLUTONIUM WILL OCCUR OUTSIDE OF IRAQ.

TO FACILITATE THE DISCUSSIONS WE ARE AIR POUCHING TO SALMON A COPY OF THE FAHMY-KISSINGER COMMUNIQUE ON THIS SUBJECT THAT WAS ISSUED DURING THE SADAT VISIT AS WELL AS OUR LATEST DRAFT AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT WHICH IS NOW UNDER CONFIDENTIAL

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NEGOTIATION. LATTER IS SUBJECT TO REVISION AND IS ONLY BEING PROVIDED ON BACKGROUND BASIS FOR EMBASSY'S INFORMATION. TEXT SHOULD NEITHER BE MADE AVAILABLE TO GOF OR QUOTED AT THIS STAGE.

ADVISE. KISSINGER

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